

anti-vaxxer and therefore I should not be allowed on linkedin now the context for that that's fascinating is that atlantic monthly attack article that is often cited by my detractors and it's a fascinating read um we could go down that rabbit hole but no reason um it was written a few days after peter navarro and I came out with an op-ed in the washington times in which we criticized biden policy on vaccines and said that they should be reserved for those that need the most and not used universally and we said some other things about the need of of testing and um tools so that people can assess their true risk it was a political retaliation intended to take me off the map as I was starting to interact more of a public policy sphere now with this this twitter event my wife and I have racked our brains about what was the what is likely to have been the tweet that triggered this and you know you never know the last two that I can think of that went out was one that was on our sub stack in which we um referred to a fantastic video that has been put out by the canadian COVID care alliance group that summarizes all the malfeasance and data manipulation misinterpretation associated with the pfizer vaccines and their clinical trials it's a super video and um of course that's I guess that is uh interpreted as something that would cause people to become vaccine hesitant that's the sin in general is saying things that cause people to become vaccine hesitant the other thing that I put out immediately before that was a post a link to a website for the world economic forum that lays out their entire strategy for how they manage media how they're managing COVID-19 and all of their core messaging it's a fascinating website with links those are the only two things I can think of that would meet the criteria. So, you know my position all the way through this comes off of the platform of bioethics and the importance of informed consent so my position is that people should have the freedom of choice particularly for their children um and that in order to con to appropriately choose to participate in a medical experiment they have to be fully informed of the risks as well as the benefits and so I've tried really hard to make sure that people have access to the information about those risks and potential benefits the true unfiltered academic papers and raw data etc. and the policy that's being implemented is one in which no discussion of the risks are allowed because by definition they will elicit vaccine hesitance so it can't be discussed but that's the fundamental background that's the backbone of informed consent so informed consent is not only not happening it's being actively blocked that makes sense.

JR: it does make sense and it's unprecedented I mean I can't recall a time ever where people weren't able to discuss the side effects of medication whether or not the studies are accurate whether or not people should universally take these things or whether it should be done on a person-by-person basis this is a it's a very strange time and so when someone who's an expert like yourself has a dissenting opinion and you see that dissenting opinion immediately silenced or si- or at least immediately criticized and then these attempts at silencing it it just signifies how confusing and how troubled the times were in are when Covid first hit when the lockdown started happening in march of 2020 what was your position on all this.

RM: so you're kind of asking my origin story with Covid

JR: yes I mean were you initially um have you taken the COVID vaccine

RM: so the answer is yes I've also been infected twice

JR: after you took it um

RM: once before I was infected at the end of February because I was attending a MIT

conference on drug discovery and artificial intelligence so this is pre-lockdown February 20. you but it goes back further than that um there's a CIA agent that I've co-published with in the past named Michael Calahan he was in Wuhan in the fourth quarter of 2019 he called me from Wuhan on January 4th I was currently managing a team that was focusing on drug discovery for organophosphate poisoning ergo nerve agents for DTRA, defense threat reduction agency, involving high-performing computing and biorobot screening um high-end stuff and he told me Robert you got to get your team spun up because we got a problem with this new virus I worked with him through prior outbreaks and so it was then that I turned my attention to this started modeling um a key protein a protease inhibitor of this virus when the sequence was released on January 11th as the Wuhan seafood market virus and I've been pretty much going non-stop ever since to that point with with drug repurposing so I'm the one that originally discovered famotidine as an agent um because I was self-treating myself after I got infected with agents that we'd identified through the computer modeling.

SUPPORTING H.R. 5314, THE PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 3, 2022

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5314, the Protecting our Democracy Act, a bill I am proud to have cosponsored.

The work of ensuring that our Republic remains committed to our founding democratic principles is something all of us in Congress should fully support. Each generation of elected officials and Americans is entrusted with protecting our incredible and fragile form of government.

Today, we look to respond to that responsibility and confront the systemic crisis of confidence facing our Nation's government through the Protecting our Democracy Act. This bill seeks to bolster the checks and balances between the branches of our government, ensure public officials are held accountable, confront corruption head on and provide more transparency for the American people. This much-needed legislation responds to attempts to undermine our democratic institutions. It will make sure our government works for the people and rebuild trust in the lawmakers and public servants working on the pressing issues facing our Nation and the world.

Lastly, as a Legislative Branch appropriator and member of the Blue Dog Coalition, I want to thank the Rules Committee for making the amendment submitted by Congressman CORREA, Chair of the Blue Dog Task Force on Jobs and Economic Growth, in order. His amendment will ensure Congressionally mandated reports from the executive branch are transmitted to Congress in machine readable format, easing public access to these reports.

As Congress works to strengthen and protect our democracy for future generations, the reforms in this bill will help ensure that we can keep our cherished republic. I urge support for this measure.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MATTHEW HARMON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 3, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Lieutenant Commander Matthew Harmon, United States Navy, during his service as a legislative fellow in my Washington, D.C., office last year. Throughout 2021, Matt has played a critical role in supporting my work on the House Armed Services Committee and representing the proud Navy community in eastern Connecticut.

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, I have the high honor of overseeing much of our Nation's Navy, Marine Corps, and various Air Force programs. The Navy's legislative fellowship program is an invaluable effort that benefits members of the House and Senate as we craft annual improvements to our nation's military apparatus with the insight of junior officers who, like Matt, bring real-world experience from military duty. This year, as our subcommittee considered how best to fund critical shipbuilding programs, bolster shipbuilding supply chains, and prioritize Navy and Marine Corps readiness across the INDOPACOM through the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, Matt provided critical insight and guidance into how our subcommittee could best provide the resources and platforms that our sailors and marines need to achieve mission success.

Matt has also seized initiative in a variety of areas beyond naval affairs. He worked tirelessly to scrub the Navy's budget request and used his Navy experience to identify funding gaps in the shipbuilding and conversion and research, development, test, and evaluation accounts. After identifying areas in which we could improve the Navy's posture and readiness through Congressional authorization, he was able to recommend substantive changes that resulted in the Seapower subcommittee's inclusion of top Navy priorities in the FY22 NDAA. He has also served as the staff lead for the Friends of Australia Caucus, of which I serve as co-chair, ensuring that the ties between our countries remain as strong as ever—particularly as our two nations begin a new era of partnership under AUKUS. At a time when America's and our allies' national security priorities are refocusing rapidly towards the maritime domain in the Pacific, Matt's work to facilitate communications with the executive branch of government and our Australian counterparts to recognize new opportunities in light of the enhanced relationship afforded by AUKUS will have a direct impact on the security of our Nation.

From his very first days with my office, Matt has been an adaptable and effective advocate for the needs of the second district of Connecticut. Starting his fellowship in a year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, he adjusted quickly to more than unusual circumstances, becoming my office's first legislative fellow to initially onboard under fully remote circumstances while also joining my office's team in the same week of the January 6th riot. He has since acted as an invaluable, resilient asset on behalf of my office.

Matt's work ethic, diligence, intelligence, and first-hand experience as a Surface Warfare Officer made an immediate, memorable impact on my office. After travelling across the world with tenures on the USS *Blue Ridge*, USS *McCampbell*, USS *Antietam* and USS *America*, I am grateful for his family's tremendous sacrifice to our Nation and for landing in Washington for the current phase of their life. Though Matt's presence will be deeply missed by both my personal staff and Seapower staff,

we have found solace in the fact that his expertise will remain within Congress as the Deputy Director of the Senate Navy Liaison Office.

Madam Speaker, as has also been the case for each of his predecessors that my office has had the opportunity to host, I have benefitted greatly from Matt's training, experience, and background. This recurring process that the fellowship program fosters, strengthens civilian-military understanding for future leaders of the greatest military in the world, which I

believe is so important to our democracy. Our Nation is best served at sea and here on shore by officers and leaders of the highest caliber. Matt embodies such qualities and has a promising career ahead in continued service to our nation. To that end, I wish LCDR Harmon the best of luck in his new role and would further like to extend my sincerest well-wishes to Matt's family, namely, his wife Miki, their children RJ and Mia, Moogi and Mocha on their life chapters to come.